

than in most members of the group; anterior back approximately "drab-grey" of Ridgway, posterior back more fawn-coloured. Sides lighter grey, edged below with an indistinct buffy line. Whole of under surface pure white to the roots of the hairs. Centre of face fawn-grey; cheeks greyer and a marked clear grey patch present between eye and ear. Ears rather large, the fine hairs of their outer surface fawn anteriorly, brown posteriorly, but the hinder margin both outside and in is edged with white. A marked white postauricular patch present. Outer side of forearms and lower leg buffy, hands pure white; feet white, mixed proximally with buffy. Tail dull buffy for its basal two thirds, then on its subterminal sixth the crest-hairs above are tipped with black, while the long-haired terminal sixth is abruptly pure white all round. In a younger specimen the white tip, though present, is much shorter.

Skull rather delicately built for its size. Teeth small and narrow. Bullæ unusually small for this group.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh by Mr. Blackler):—

Head and body 137 millim.; tail 151; hind foot (s. u.) 33; ear 18.

Skull: greatest length 38.7; basilar length 30.5; zygomatic breadth 21; length of nasals 16; interorbital breadth 5.9; diastema 11; bullæ 12 × 8; length of upper molar series 5.2.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 3. 6. 1. 1. Original number 5. Collected 5th January, 1903, and presented by Mr. W. G. Blackler.

"In an open field. Alt. 400 feet."

This fine gerbille is readily distinguishable from any of its allies by its pale greyish colour and white-tipped tail.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the Authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. BLANFORD.—*Hymenoptera.* Vol. II. *Ants and Cuckoo-Wasps.* By Lieut.-Colonel C. T. BINGHAM. London, 1903. 8vo. Pp. xix, 506. 1 coloured plate; xiii. & 161 figures in the text.

It is less than a year since the first volume of Mr. Distant's monograph on the Indian Rhynchota in the present series of works

came under our notice for review, and we have now the pleasure of welcoming the second volume of Col. Bingham's work on the Hymenoptera Aculeata of India, comprising the important families of Formicidæ and Chrysididæ, and thus completing the best-known and most interesting, though not the most numerous, section of the order—the Aculeata, or Stinging Hymenoptera: the Bees, Wasps, and Ants.

We are very pleased to see that the claims of entomology are so fully recognized by those who are responsible for the issue of this valuable series of publications. A volume by Mr. Gahan on Longicorn Coleoptera and a second volume by Mr. Distant on Rhynchota are announced as nearly ready for press, and works on the Land-Mollusca and on the Butterflies of India (the latter by Col. Bingham) are likewise in preparation. It is much to be wished that the colonies in general would follow the good example set them by India, and undertake the preparation of a similar series of works dealing with their own natural productions. For instance, we have not even a comprehensive work on the Butterflies and Moths of the British West Indies, though these insects are admired by every one, and the West Indian species are fairly well known to specialists. Nevertheless the amateur or the beginner would find nothing like a comprehensive account of even the Lepidoptera of Jamaica in any accessible form; and less still on other orders of insects. This should not be.

It will be seen that such a reproach no longer exists in regard to India, for we may reasonably hope that all the orders of insects will ultimately be treated as fully as those already in course of publication. But even as regards the British Islands we have no sufficiently comprehensive scientific or popular works at present on the Diptera and a portion of the Hymenoptera, though Mr. Verrall has commenced a series of volumes on the former order and Mr. Claud Morley has promised us a volume on the Ichneumonidæ.

To those who are acquainted with Col. Bingham's previous work it will only be necessary to say that the volume before us is executed in his usual careful manner and according to the plan which has been uniformly followed in all the volumes of 'The Fauna of British India.' He has described 577 species in the volume before us, 498 Formicidæ and 79 Chrysididæ. Among these are a few new species. The number of British species known in 1871-2, according to the catalogues of Smith and Marshall, and not greatly increased since, stood at 31 Myrmicidæ and 22 Chrysididæ. This will serve to illustrate the difference between a temperate and a tropical fauna.